

Ellen M. Thrasher
Associate Administrator
Office of Business and Community Initiatives

Ellen Thrasher is the Associate Administrator for the Office of Business and Community Initiatives, U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA). In this capacity, she serves as an advocate for entrepreneurial development through a variety of management and technical assistance programs and services designed for small business success.

As the Associate Administrator, Ms. Thrasher manages SCORE a \$5 million counseling and training program, composed of nearly 11,000 volunteers in 389 chapters nationwide. Building on the skills of experienced business owners and managers, both retired and active, SCORE is unique to the federal government by utilizing trained and experienced volunteers to provide face to face counseling, topical training and on-line counseling to America's entrepreneurs. A valued resource partner of the SBA for 40 years, SCORE received the inaugural USA Freedom Corps Award for exemplary volunteer service. Since 1964, SCORE has assisted more than 6.4 million American entrepreneurs achieve their small business goals.

Ms. Thrasher also directs the Business Information Center (BIC) program, a "living laboratory" of cutting edge business technology and information available in 80 locations nationally. BICs are in public libraries, chambers of commerce and numerous locations designed to provide "knowledge management" in one accessible location. The Office of International Visitors, a courtesy service to foreign visitors and dignitaries, showcasing for international visitors the "American small business model" is also managed by Ms. Thrasher.

Prior to her current position in the Office of Business and Community Initiatives, she served as Deputy Associate Administrator for the Small Business Development Center program; an \$90 million technical assistance grant program of the SBA. Ms. Thrasher also was the Deputy Associate Administrator for the SBA Office of Women's Business Ownership, the only federal office with the sole responsibility of supporting women owned businesses. During her tenure the Women's Business Centers, were developed from a demonstration pilot into a permanent program of the SBA. Ms. Thrasher is a graduate of the SBA's Senior Executive Service leadership program.

Ms. Thrasher's extensive career in public policy began on the personal staff of United States Senator Barry Goldwater of Arizona. Over the course of fifteen years, she served in a variety of high level positions, including Legislative Assistant, Constituent Services and Special Assistant.

Ms. Thrasher is active in numerous civic and community organizations, including appointment to the District of Columbia Commission on Women and serves on the Advisory Board for the National Women in History Museum.

A native of Arizona, she earned a Bachelor of Science degree from Arizona State University. Ms. Thrasher resides in Washington, D.C. with her family.